



100
100

1 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
SUBJECT: Department of Historic Continuum

Thinking that we have been suffering uniquely
we have delved into the past and discovered that
there is nothing new under the sun.

STAT



Chief, Special Affairs Staff

Attachment

RECEIVED 12/21/63 SAS

These refugees were in general men of fiery temper and weak judgment. They were also under the influence of that peculiar illusion which seems to belong to their situation. A politician driven into banishment by a hostile faction generally sees the society which he has quitted through a false medium. Every object is distorted and discolored by his regrets, his longings, and his resentments. Every little discontent appears to him to portend a revolution. Every riot is a rebellion. He cannot be convinced that his country does not pine for him as much as he pines for his country. He imagines that all his old associates, who still dwell at their homes and enjoy their estates, are tormented by the same feelings which make life a burden to himself. The longer his expatriation, the greater does this hallucination become. The lapse of time, which cools the ardor of the friends whom he has left behind, inflames his. Every month his impatience to revisit his native land increases; and every month his native land remembers and misses him less. This delusion becomes almost a madness when many exiles who suffer in the same cause herd together in a foreign country. Their chief employment is to talk of what they once were, and of what they may yet be, to goad each other into animosity against the common enemy, to feed each other with extravagant hopes of victory and revenge. Thus they become ripe for enterprises which would at once be pronounced hopeless by any man whose passions had not deprived him of the power of calculating chances.

Macaulay, Thomas Babington, The History of England from the Accession of James II., Vol. I, Chap. V. (First published 1849)

"We see , then, how vain the faith and promises of men are who are exiles from their own country. As to their faith, we have to bear in mind that, whenever they can return to their country by other means than your assistance, they will abandon you and look to the other means, regardless of their promises to you. And as to their vain hopes and promises, such is their extreme desire to return to their homes that they naturally believe many things that are not true, and add many others on purpose; so that, with what they really believe and what they say they believe, they will fill you with hopes to that degree that if you attempt to act upon them you will incur a fruitless expense, or engage in an undertaking that will involve you in ruin."

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Discourses, Second Book, Chap.31.

23 MAY 11 00 AM '63

STAT

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003100070005-8

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003100070005-8